

## RED LIGHT CAMERAS ENHANCE SAFETY

The purpose of red light camera photo enforcement is to discourage drivers from running red lights, which often cause crashes resulting in injuries and death.

To help deter the serious problem of red light running the City of Miami Beach has implemented a Dangerous Intersection Safety Program that includes red light camera photo enforcement. The program utilizes photo and video technology to enforce Miami Beach City Code<sup>2</sup> fairly and consistently with the goal of reducing infractions, preventing crashes and injuries, and saving lives.

Photo enforcement cameras are clearly not a replacement for Miami Beach police officers. A photo enforcement program is one component of a comprehensive traffic safety program including engineering, education and traditional law enforcement.

Red light camera photo enforcement is designed to change behavior, encouraging drivers to think twice before running a red light.

Each year in the United States, car accidents caused by people running red lights result in nearly 1,000 deaths and about 90,000 injuries. When one car collides with another in a car crash at the high speeds to which people travel when running a red light, the effects can be catastrophic.<sup>3</sup>

In 2003, the Florida Highway Patrol reported that running red lights alone caused 8,900 collisions, 115 deaths, more than 10,000 injuries and \$77 million in property damage.<sup>4</sup>

From 1997 to 2004, on average of 38 percent of all fatal crashes at signal controlled intersections, involved at least one driver who ran a red light.<sup>5</sup>



## HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS

The traffic signals are timed by traffic engineers through careful studies of each intersection using nationally recognized standards.

The Dangerous Intersection Safety Program's camera system is synchronized to the traffic signal using non-invasive detection equipment.

The camera system only photographs a vehicle if it enters the intersection after the light has turned red. A second photograph is taken as the vehicle progresses through the intersection.

Vehicles that enter an intersection on a yellow light phase are not photographed; even if they are still in the intersection when the light changes to the red phases. The technology is designed to record motorists as they intentionally enter an intersection after the signal turns red.

The camera photographs the vehicle from the rear – not the driver. The camera records the date time, lane, location, and speed of the vehicle.

This information is included on the Notice of Infraction and is then evaluated by specially trained members of the Miami Beach Police Department to verify that an infraction has occurred and to determine whether a Notice of Infraction should be mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Where are the cameras located throughout the city?

Systems will be installed at the following locations:

- 5 Street & Alton Road (eastbound & westbound)
- 17 Street & Washington Avenue (southbound & eastbound)
- Alton Road & Chase Avenue (northbound)
- 23 Street & Dade Boulevard (westbound)
- Indian Creek Drive & 63 Street (southbound)
- Abbott Avenue & 69 Street (southbound)
- Collins Avenue & 71 Street (northbound)

### What if I am already in the intersection when the light turns red, will I receive an infraction?

No, you will not receive an infraction, the camera only records an image when the vehicle crosses the violation point and enters the intersection above the threshold speed after the light turned red.

### What recourse do I have, if I believe the notice was issued erroneously?

If you feel you received a notice of infraction erroneously or if you have a legal justification for proceeding through the red light, you may contest your violation at an appeal hearing. On the back of your notice of infraction are instructions for filing an appeal with the City of Miami Beach Special Master.

### How much is the fine?

A red light violation carries a civil penalty of \$125 City-mandated fine for first occurrence, \$250 for the second, and up to \$500 for a third and any subsequent offense.

### Will a fine affect my driving record?

All infractions issued through the program are non-criminal and will not affect your auto insurance or driver license records.

